THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (d) Agro-Aviation Wing of the Ministry of Agriculture was transferred to Ministry of Civil Aviation in May, 1987 and subsequently to Vayudoot Ltd. in January, 1988. In view of the severe locust upsurge faced by the country during Summer of 1993, Government is considering to reactivate Agricultural Aviation Wing under the Administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Weed Growth affecting wheat cultivation**

7157. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 34 lakh hectare area under cultivation of wheat is affected by the menace of weed growth in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has cut yield upto 60 per cent at certain places; and

(c) the steps being taken or already taken to check this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, on an average yield losses due to menace of weed growth in wheat is 20-25 per cent.

(c) The following steps are being taken to check the weed menace in wheat crop:—

1. Education the farmers about cultural, mechanical and chemical methods of weed control including proper use of weedicides.

2. Ensuring timely availability of quality weedicides for control of weeds in wheat crop.

**Inadequate agricultural infrastructure to meet the food need**

7158. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural infrastructure in India and other developing countries of Asia is inadequat to meet the food needs as stated by World Bank recently;

(b) if so, the reaction of government on the World Bank remarks;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to boost agricultural infrastructure in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM (a) Though it is not true of the whole of Asia, World Bank reports in the past have noted that infrastructure in India is a constraint to agricultural production.

(b) to (d) The Government is aware that a great deal of potential in agriculture remains unexploited due to inadequate infrastructure, food processing technology, lack of adequ- marketing linkages and policy implements. To realise this potential, corrective measures are being undertaken under the new economic policy to put agriculture on a path of sustained, broad based development.

**DMS outlet in Rohini**

7159. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has not opened any outlet booth of DMS in Rohini, Delhi if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(b) whether due to this residents of the area are facing great hardship and acute shortage of milk and the private dairy owners are fleecing the general public by charging exorbitant prices;

(c) whether Government propose to open some DMS outlets/booths especially in Sector-3 of Rohini to supply milk in the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM (a) to (d) DMS has already opened eleven booths in Rohni and is making suitable supplies of milk keeping in view the demand.

As regards opening of DMS outlet$booth in Sector-3, Rohini, it may be stated that there is already one booth in this sector. The Residents Welfare Association in Sector 3, Rohini have, however, suggested opening of a new booth. They have been requested to make available rent free suitable accommodation to facilitate the opening of one more new booth by DMS.

**सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से बेचे गए गेहूं की मात्रा**

7160. **श्री राम जेठमलानी** : क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1993 में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के माध्यम से बेची गई गेहूं की मात्रा पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में कम थी ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि वर्ष, 1993–94 में सरकार द्वारा गेहूं की खरीद भी पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में अधिक थी;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या गेहूं की अधिक खरीद तथा कम बिक्री के कारण भारतीय खाद्य निगम के समक्ष भंडारण की समस्या गंभीर हो गई है ;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ङ) क्या रबी फसल में गेहूं की सरकारी खरीद के बाद इस समस्या के और अधिक गंभीर होने की संभावना है ;

(च) यदि हां, तो सरकार गेहूं के भंडारण को सीमित रखने के लिए कौन-कौन से कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ;

(छ) क्या सरकार गेहूं के निर्यात पर भी विचार रखती है ; और

(ज) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

**खाद्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्पनाथ राय)** : (क) और (ख) जी, हां।

(ग) से (च) जी, नहीं । यह कहना सही है कि अधिक वसूली और सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए कम सप्लाई करने के कारण भारतीय खाद्य निगम को 1993–94 में भण्डारण समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ा, क्योंकि :—

(1) भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा समय रहते भण्डारण स्थान के लिए उपयुक्त प्रबन्ध कर लिए गए थे । 1993–94 के दौरान, भारतीय खाद्य निगम ने रबी फसल का भण्डारण करने के लिए 44 लाख मीटरी टन की अतिरिक्त क्षमता किराए पर ली थी ।

(2) भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा अब तक खुली बिक्री के जरिए लगभग 30 लाख मीटरी टन गेहूं की बिक्री की गई है ।

(3) रबी मौसम 1993–94 के दौरान, निगम के पास निम्नलिखित भण्डारण क्षमता खाली थी :—

(आंकड़े मीटरी टन में)

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|---|---|
| 1–4–93 | 74 लाख |
| 1–5–93 | 63 लाख |
| 1–6–93 | 42 लाख |